

compounded by human ineptitude, as FEMA, State officials and the President all reacted slowly and without adequate concern for their fellow Americans.

We rightly witnessed their inaction and unconcern on our television sets.

But there is another America, an America which responds to distress with generosity and a willingness to pitch in. An America which provides an outpouring of funds for the Red Cross and countless truckloads amounts of donated supplies.

I want to tell you a story about what is best in America.

When they learned of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, two members of the Vermont's South Burlington Fire Department, Lieutenant Micah Genzlinger and Firefighter Trevor Poor, volunteered to help their fellow firefighters on the hard-struck gulf coast. They went to areas devastated by the hurricane and helped other fire companies fight fires. They also helped citizens rebuild and recover from the destruction wrought by the storm. And, in the spare time they could muster, they helped their fellow firefighters take care of the damage to their own homes.

And the fire company they left behind? According to their union contract, firefighters must be given notice of shift changes two weeks in advance. Generously, all their colleagues waived this requirement, so that they could cover all shifts, without charging massive overtime to the city of South Burlington. They changed their work schedules to make sure the city was protected and that Genzlinger and Poor's trip to help others did not undercut local fire protection, all at no additional cost.

This story was repeated all over America. In Vermont, firefighters from Barre and Hartford also headed south to help their firefighting brothers and sisters. In other states, firefighters responded to the call to protect and rebuild—as they always do, not only for their own cities and towns, but for Americans everywhere.

This kind of generous solidarity is what makes America a great and wonderful Nation.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, back in June, the Supreme Court handed down a ruling in *Kelo* versus City of New London that states that the Government can seize personal property for the purpose of economic development. Mr. Speaker, this ruling embodies everything for which our Founding Fathers did not want this country to stand.

Mr. Speaker, the *Kelo* ruling is a gross misinterpretation of the Fifth Amendment. The Fifth Amendment allows for the government to obtain private property for public use, meaning this property can be obtained for the government to build something such as a school or a road. However, the *Kelo* ruling allows the government to take property owners' farms, private businesses, or even our homes so that big-time investors and businessman can come in to our towns and cities and build shopping malls and supermarkets on the property that is rightfully owned by our constituents.

I support H.R. 4128, The Private Property Rights Protection Act, and urge all members to do so. This piece of legislation will allow us as Members of Congress to protect our constituents against the loophole created in *Kelo* by the Supreme Court, and will allow us to punish those state and localities that take advantage of their citizens and of this ruling.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Galilee Missionary Baptist Church as they join together in celebration of the 5th Pastoral anniversary of their esteemed Pastor Reverend Charles M. Morgan. They will be celebrating this very momentous and special occasion November 18–20, 2005.

Reverend Morgan was born to the late James and Lillie Morgan in Kansas City, Missouri. He completed his undergraduate studies at Ottawa University and Calvary Seminary. He is presently matriculating in the McCormick Theological Seminary. Reverend Morgan is an active member of the Baptist Minister's Conference of Gary and Vicinity, and he is the 2nd Vice Moderator of the Northern Indiana Missionary Baptist District Association. He is a regular participant at the Stephen Olford School for Expository Preaching in Memphis, Tennessee. Reverend Morgan has also been an instructor for the Baptist Minister's Seminar for the past two years.

From its modest beginning, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church has emerged as a cornerstone of the community. Under Pastor Morgan's guidance, Galilee continues to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements. The proud members of the church are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during the years.

Though Reverend Morgan is dedicated to the Galilee Family, he has never limited his time and love for his family. Reverend Charles Morgan and his wife Francine have three daughters, Natasha (deceased), LaRonda Lindsey, and Rasheeda; one son, Johan; and two grandchildren, Manuel and Jackson.

The celebration weekend begins on Friday, November 18, 2005, with the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church Family and Pastor Charles L. Emery. On Saturday, November 19, 2005, there will be an evening of love and appreciation at the Turkey Creek Country Club Banquet in Merrillville, Indiana. The celebration banquet will conclude the festivities on Sunday, November 20, 2005, when the church honors Pastor Morgan and his family with special guests, including Pastor Mike Nicholson and the Mount Calvary Baptist Church Family of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Reverend and Mrs. Charles M. Morgan and the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church on their 5th Pastoral anniversary. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 27, 2005 I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall vote No. 553. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 553, the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2005.

RECOGNITION OF UNPARALLELED CIVIL SERVICE BY MR. STEPHEN WHITMORE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to highlight the extraordinary service of Mr. Stephen Whitmore, who is currently the operations officer for the Department of Public Works at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Born on July 16, 1923, Steve has selflessly served the Nation, the Army and Fort Dix for more than 60 of his 82 years.

Mr. Whitmore's service began during World War II when he enlisted in the Army on July 19, 1943. As a soldier assigned to the 1st U.S. Army, he served as a participant in many of the major battles fought in central Europe from November 1944 until April 1946. On April 29, 1946, Steve completed his Army out-processing procedures and immediately began working as a Fort Dix Civil Service Employee.

Since then, Mr. Whitmore has worked for the Directorate of Public Works, DPW, in a variety of capacities. As you would expect, Mr. Whitmore's impact on the facilities and infrastructure of Fort Dix has been enormous. The majority of the buildings currently utilized on Fort Dix were built after he arrived in 1945. Consequently, he participated in some manner in the construction of almost all of the facilities in use today and has continued to maintain and repair them throughout his 60-year tenure. Furthermore, all of the utility systems on Fort Dix were either installed or expanded under his personal guidance. In fact, the current electrical grid system for the Installation is one that he designed and either helped construct with a crew of high-tension electricians or oversaw the construction in a supervisory capacity. Also occurring under his watch was the conversion of the Installation's heating systems from coal to oil to natural gas.

In addition to Mr. Whitmore's consistent and exceptional execution of his core DPW responsibilities, he has been a key factor in ensuring the successful implementation of non-traditional missions. One of those events concerned a mission assigned to Fort Dix in 1999 entitled Operation Provide Refuge. In short, Fort Dix was tasked to provide temporary housing for over 4,000 Kosovar refugees. Therefore, in addition to performing his duties as Chief of the Public Works Division, Steve assumed responsibility for providing utilities for all of the temporary facilities, installing almost five miles of temporary fencing, constructing playgrounds, maintaining the grounds in all the areas of operation, constructing and

installing signs throughout the Installation, establishing and rewiring a welcome center, assisting in the construction and installation of tent frames and even the installation of bed frames and mattresses in the dormitories. His overall work plan execution was magnificent and he guided his personnel through 18 hour work days, 7 days a week to get the work done, while still maintaining tremendous morale throughout his work force.

Another monumental mission for which Mr. Whitmore's expertise and ingenuity ensured a successful outcome was the role he played in establishing the security of Fort Dix immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This was a daunting task since the Installation had never been closed to through traffic in its 84-year history. He assembled a crew and equipment and worked with the police to close the Installation in a matter of hours. His expertise and unmatched knowledge of the Installation ensured that the dozens of means of access other than the main entry/exit points were identified and blocked. He has continued those efforts over the past 4 years to identify, develop and execute major projects to convert the temporary measures to permanent security barriers to include the installation of a 3½-mile-long security fence.

Mr. Whitmore's most recent accomplishment pertains to the exceptional work he has done on the development and execution of projects to establish a Forward Operating Base, FOB, to provide vital, realistic training to our soldiers being mobilized in support of the Global War on Terror. Steve planned and supervised the construction of the FOB, which is the largest, most complex FOB in the continental United States. Based on his actions, the FOB was built and maintained to a standard that allows the FOB to house, service, and provide realistic field training to approximately 2000 mobilizing soldiers at one time. Whether it was the electrical system, which he designed and had executed, the water and drain systems so that the Soldiers could take showers, the heating of the tents and even the clearing of the roads when it snowed, he was the one who made it all happen. Mr. Whitmore had the ideas, the ability to bring the ideas to resolution and ambition, energy and interest to accomplish whatever was necessary to make the FOB a success.

To this day he continues to provide the oversight for all utility services. His knowledge of the systems is legendary as is his ability to trouble shoot and quickly correct all system problems. He is a shining example of someone who adheres to the Army values in both his professional and personnel life. A man of strong resolve and unmatched abilities, Steve is a true patriot worthy of our Nation's thanks and praise.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM LAWRENCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Lawrence, retired letter carrier and member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, San Francisco Branch 214, who is being honored by the Letter Car-

riers at their Biannual Congressional Breakfast.

Bill Lawrence began his service to our country when he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 16. After serving in China, he was honorably discharged and settled in San Francisco in 1927. He worked for several years as a cable car conductor, one of the few union jobs in San Francisco at the time. In July 1938, he began his career as a Letter Carrier, immediately joining Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Bill served as Secretary of Branch 214 for 6 years, and delivered mail on the streets of San Francisco for 35 years, until he retired at age 65.

In 1970, Bill Lawrence was elected to the non-partisan City Council of nearby Brisbane, California, and over the next two decades, served twice as Mayor. After his tenure on the City Council, Bill pursued his dedication to public service as the Legislative Liaison for the California State Association of Letter Carriers. Bill has always said that his love of politics stems from the rewarding feeling he gets from helping people. Now at age 97, Bill continues to delight children of all ages when he dresses as Santa Claus during the holidays.

I've always been proud to call Bill Lawrence my friend. He is a kind and generous man, and without his support and that of his wife, Honey Bee, I would not have been elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bill Lawrence's countless contributions to our community and our country. Because of him and his distinguished service, we are unmistakably a better and more decent nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ALL KIDS
HEALTH CARE PROGRAM OF IL-
LINOIS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich for establishing the All Kids health care program, and the Illinois General Assembly for passing this important initiative. This plan makes Illinois the first State in the country to provide comprehensive health insurance to every child in the State.

The All Kids program will target the estimated 253,000 uninsured children in Illinois; providing coverage for children from working families that earn too much to qualify for existing programs but not enough to purchase private health insurance.

According to a National Health Interview Survey, 39 percent of American children did not visit a doctor in the past year, and 38 percent have no regular facility to utilize for their health care needs. Because their parents cannot afford hospital bills, uninsured children are six times as likely as insured children to have serious health issues go untreated. As a result, they are at higher risk for hospitalizations and missed diagnoses of serious illnesses. Improved health care for children is not the only benefit of this program. Studies show that children with health insurance are more likely to attend school consistently.

Additionally, the grades and test scores for insured children are substantially higher than their uninsured peers.

By moving a majority of Illinois' Medicaid beneficiaries into a primary care case management program where every beneficiary has their own family doctor, the State will save millions of dollars that will be used to pay for the All Kids program and provide more Illinois children with basic health care.

The State of Illinois has taken responsibility for the children and their families who do not have this critical coverage. The program enacted by the State of Illinois is set to begin in July 2006.

With 45.8 million uninsured Americans in 2004, it is time to stop ignoring the problem and to start taking action. I congratulate the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Blagojevich for a job well done, and I urge my colleagues to take a look at what Illinois is doing to help provide health care for children.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE
REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1461) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes:

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, I first want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) for their leadership in getting this bill, H.R. 1461, to the House floor. Reforming the regulatory structure for the housing GSEs has clearly been a long time in the making.

I am going to vote for this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. I believe that we must act as a body to move this process forward, and work with the Senate to draft a bill that President Bush can sign into law. We are all aware of the economic damage that took place in the wake of other corporate accounting scandals, be it Enron, WorldCom or Tyco. It is important to remember that in terms of assets, Enron was only about one-sixteenth the size that Fannie Mae is today. WorldCom and Tyco were about one-tenth the size of Fannie in terms of assets. These facts cannot be ignored. Legislation is long overdue.

However, I continue to have many concerns about certain provisions in H.R. 1461 that I believe could do more harm than good to our housing markets. Primarily, I am concerned that H.R. 1461 does not go far enough to protect our financial markets from the systemic risk posed by the giant portfolio holdings of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned us that without the needed restrictions on the size of Fannie and Freddie's portfolios, our ability to preserve safe and sound financial markets is significantly put at risk. H.R. 1461 would not give the new regulator the necessary tools to appropriately limit the size of the portfolios of these two institutions. The combined retained portfolios of these two